

Construction of Convention Bag

Cutting Instructions

Straps - width= 4 inches; length = 1 strip @ 44 inches or 2 strips @ 22 inches

Front and back of purse – 18 inches wide x 17 inches long – Note: if using 1 length of fabric for both front and back, then use 35 inches for length). Get creative and piece fabrics together to achieve the dimensions

Pocket – cut 8 or 9 inch square (or piece fabrics together to achieve dimensions)

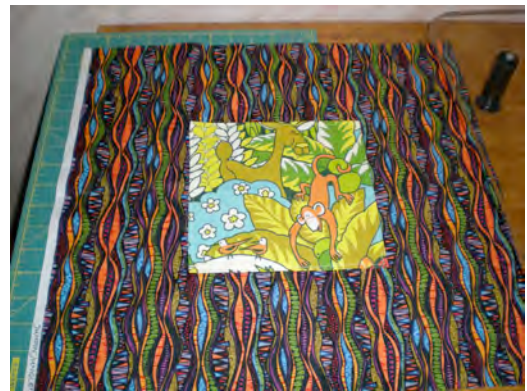
Facing – width = 2 or 2.5 inches; length = 36 inches
(You can use shorter pieces stitched together to = 36")

Construction Instructions

Use 1/2-inch seams (instructions assume proper pressing at each step)

Pocket – finish raw edges, i.e., zigzag. Turn edges under 1/4 - 1/2 " all around and press. Can sew decorate top stitch across pocket top, etc. as your creativity dictates. Position on to the bag front center; pin and sew in place.

Front and Back of Bag – finish raw edges. With right sides together, pin front to back and stitch down both sides; stop sewing 1/2 inch from bottom. Sew bottom seam beginning where each side seam ended.



Attaching pocket



Folding and measuring the gusset

Making "T" seam at the bottom of the bag (the gusset):

Pinch together a corner of the bag... thumb on the side seam and index finger on the bottom seam (or put your thumb on the bottom seam and your index finger on the side seam, either way works!). You want these two seams to line up together. Then, from the bottom seam, measure 1 1/2 inches along the side seam and mark it. Then pin that corner down. Fabric should be flat and form a triangle.

Sew across the seam from one side to the other at the 1 1/2 inch mark.

See diagram below:

↓ Side seam in vertical position

Note: when fabric is properly positioned, the side seam bisects the triangle

△ ← Stitch here for T seam



Sew across the seam to form the gusset



Fold and press lengthwise in half

Straps – Fold/press lengthwise in half open and press each side in to the center fold. Refold along centerline, so fabric strap is 1 inch wide and 4 layers of fabric. Pin.

Topstitch down both sides of strap. If using a 44-inch length, cut into 2 lengths of 22 inches after topstitching is completed.

Position straps onto front and back of bag – allow 6 inches between straps – or use front pocket sides as your guide for spacing the straps. On the front, match one end of strap with top edge of the bag; drape strap and pin other end of strap to top edge of the bag. Strap should form a “U” when each end is pinned in place. Attach second strap to the back in the same manner.



Position straps onto front and back of bag

Facing – finish bottom edges, align facing along top edge of bag and note any adjustments that may be needed (to lengthen or shorten facing to fit the bag opening exactly). Make any adjustments to correct length. With RIGHT sides together, pin facing to outside of bag. Sew all the way around. Press, turning facing and placing straps into proper position. On the outside of the bag, topstitch 1/2 inch from the top edge of the bag, all the way around, to keep facing in position.

You’ re done!!

You can get as creative you as want with finishes, textures, threads, fabrics, colors, combinations etc. The only rules are:

Use fabric that is “recycled”, (examples: left over from some other project, old curtains, scrapes from quilting, sitting in your stash for years, or given to you by someone). No fabrics should be purchased for this project.

Bags should have 1 pocket and be approximately the dimensions described in the instructions.

Fabrics: Medium weight cottons, twill, duck, blends, denims, and some decorator fabrics. No flannel, fleece, upholstery, sheers, etc.

If you decide to piece a lot of fabric scraps together, you should then attach it to a solid piece that can act as a “lining” (lining should be lightweight fabric).